

2018 -- S 2928

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

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SENATE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING MAY 24, 2018, TO BE "AGE FRIENDLY RHODE ISLAND DAY"

Introduced By: Senators Goodwin, McCaffrey, Conley, Ruggerio, and Lombardi

Date Introduced: May 24, 2018

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, The Rhode Island population of people aged 65 and over is expected to  
2 grow from 151,881 in 2010, to 247,579 by 2030, increasing the total share of this population from  
3 14.4 percent to 23 percent; and

4           WHEREAS, The state has the highest percent of persons age 85 years and over and this  
5 group is projected to increase by 72 percent by 2040; and

6           WHEREAS, Research shows that older Americans overwhelmingly want to remain in  
7 their own homes and communities as they age; and

8           WHEREAS, Access to quality healthcare, long-term supports and services, and social  
9 supports are essential for individuals to live in their homes and communities; and

10           WHEREAS, The ability to get to where one needs to go is a key factor for successful  
11 aging within a community yet research suggests that after age 70, older women may spend 10  
12 years dependent on others for transportation and older men may spend seven years dependent,  
13 thus creating significant challenges for these transit-dependent older adults to access healthcare  
14 and engage in family and community life; and

15           WHEREAS, About one-third of older Rhode Islanders live alone which may lead to  
16 social isolation and loneliness which in some studies, has been shown to be on a par with  
17 smoking, high blood pressure and obesity as a predictor of early death; and

18           WHEREAS, Older Rhode Islanders make valuable contributions to the state's economy  
19 and social fabric by providing hundreds of hours of volunteer service, serving as family  
20 caregivers, making charitable contributions and remaining engaged in the workforce; and

1           WHEREAS, Active aging is a life-long process and journey, whereby age-friendly  
2 communities and states are not just "elder-friendly" but also intended to be friendly for all ages;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, The World Health Organization (WHO) has developed a Global Network of  
5 Age- Friendly Cities and Communities to encourage and promote public policies to increase the  
6 number of cities and communities that support healthy aging and thereby improve the health,  
7 well-being, satisfaction, and quality of life for older Americans; and

8           WHEREAS, Working under the auspices of the WHO and the AARP Network of Age-  
9 Friendly Communities, 231 communities across the country and two states, New York and  
10 Massachusetts, are working to become Age-Friendly; and

11           WHEREAS, Legislation enacted in 2014 established the Aging in Community  
12 Subcommittee of the Long Term Care Coordinating Council which issued a report and Strategic  
13 Plan leading to the creation of the Age-Friendly Rhode Island Coalition whose vision is to build a  
14 state that enables Rhode Islanders to live independently with the care, support, and resources  
15 needed to foster health, well-being, social connectedness, and a meaningful life as they age; and

16           WHEREAS, Age-Friendly Rhode Island Coalition work groups are focusing on nine  
17 domains of livability: Transportation, Housing, Civic and Community Engagement,  
18 Communication and Information, Healthcare Access, Supports at Home, Food Security and  
19 Nutrition, Economic Security and Outdoor Spaces and Public Buildings; now, therefore be it

20           RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
21 hereby proclaims May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018, as "Age Friendly Rhode Island Day"; and be it further

22           RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby supports the work of the Rhode Island Age-  
23 Friendly Coalition including local efforts initiated by municipalities and volunteer groups and  
24 furthermore encourages the Governor and state agencies to join in supporting this work; and be it  
25 further

26           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
27 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Governor Gina M. Raimondo and Jody Shue,  
28 Executive Director of the Age-Friendly Rhode Island Coalition.

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